

SICC MEETING

Truman Building Room 490

November 8, 2002

Members Present

Debby Parsons
Rick Horrell
Gretchen Schmitz
Anne Marie Wells

Cheryl Culbertson
Valeri Lane
Leslie Elpers
Jim McLaughlin

Tracey Hickerson
Kathy Fuger
Sheryl Taylor

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Ann Marie Wells called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

CIMP Follow-up – Debby Parsons

Debby Parsons indicated that the entire CIMP report that was submitted to OSEP in mid-October is on the Division's website. If you need a hard copy of the entire document, please contact Lina Browner.

Debby handed out the executive summary for the CIMP report and briefly discussed with the council some of the key points and findings included in the CIMP report. OSEP will now review the document and get back with DESE regarding any concerns. DESE will then develop an on-going, very in-depth action plan on how to address problem areas and how to go about fixing those problems.

As you review the CIMP report, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Debby Parsons.

Implementation Activities Update

Jodi Woessner indicated SPOE RFPs are in the process of being reviewed and have not been awarded yet. In preparation of them being awarded, DESE has been working on scheduling and revising the SPOE training. DESE is targeting having a week-long training in January. DESE is using feedback from the Phase I SPOE training to make revisions to the Phase II training. DESE is also revising the practice manual and the forms based on this feedback. There will also be some additional trainings for Phase I and II concerning billing and forms (this was not included in the Phase I training). The Phase II training will be held in Jefferson City and at this time, DESE anticipates only 30 participants. The forms will be embedded in the training curriculum.

Independent Service Coordinator Update

Jodi indicated that there are 15 independent service coordinators in the St. Louis and St. Charles areas as of October 15, 2002. There is a list of approximately 30 people from across the state that have expressed interested or are in the process of becoming an independent service coordinator. DESE will be doing some targeted recruitment in the St. Louis City area to get more independent service coordinators.

Debby Parsons indicated that DESE has been reviewing the matrix. Providers are enrolling for Phase II. DESE is also reviewing the First Steps website to make sure that everything that needs to be on the website is and that it is all current information.

Debby Parsons briefly discussed the Performance Report. She hopes to have more detailed information at the January meeting as to what is required in the report and the timelines.

Debby Parsons indicated that Paula Goff has left the Department and the Division is in the process of hiring her replacement.

Vickie Wilks indicated that there have been 22 trainings with only one training cancelled and 15 more trainings scheduled. Things are going well and trainings are filling up. It was mentioned though that some providers seem to be having trouble printing the training information off the website. DESE will be providing Vicki with training sets for participants who were unable to print the information to borrow during the training session.

Budget/Data Update/HIPAA – Rick Hutcherson

Data Update - Rick handed out and discussed information regarding First Steps referrals.

Budget Update - At present the Division is getting questions from the Division of Budget and Planning on the status of our current budget. The Division has indicated to them that we feel comfortable with the funds we currently have. We are not requesting a supplemental to finish out this year and we do not have any increases in the budget for next year. The per child expenditure in Phase I is approximately half of what was the historical per pupil expenditure. Part of this is due to transition of how services are being provided, we also feel that providers have much better training, we believe there is more scrutiny, and the CFO makes sure there is an authorization before services are provided.

SPOE Bids - There were approximately 12 submitted. They are in the process of reviewing. By November 22 should have the awards made.

Providers/Matrix - We have sent a letter to all service coordinators asking them about services that are included in the IFSP but are not able to find a provider to provide the service. We are emailing the providers to ask them to make sure that their information is current. There are approximately 800 providers. 310 of which have never had any assignments, part of which is because they have not completed their provider matrix or have kept it up to date.

HIPAA - Working with Covansys to make sure that our system is HIPAA compliant. It will be more cost effective for DESE to work with Indiana to remediate our system. We are required to be in full compliance by October 2003. School districts will also be impacted by this.

Family Cost Participation - In further study from our contractor, DESE concluded tentatively that we need a state by state assessment on what the restrictions and/or requirements are. DESE is asking Sue Mackey Andrews to contact other states to get some information. Hope to have information back from her by the first of the year.

Remote Incentive - Pay providers something to attract them because there are no providers for some areas. The Division of Budget Planning is asking us not to proceed because they are having questions about costs. We are linked with Medicaid reimbursements and there are very few options.

Break

Part C Application – Pam Williams

Pam handed out some information and updated the group on the status of the Part C application. Pam will update the group in January on the status of the Part C application at that time.

Monitoring – Pam Williams

The St. Louis and St. Charles SPOEs were monitored recently. DESE identified a couple of major issues and a couple of other issues that need to be addressed. One is the 45-day time line and one is eligibility (developmental delay and communication). Other issues are the multidisciplinary team, written notification of the IFSP meeting, annual IFSP, and transition from Part C to Part B. They also found some issues involving data entry and not being able to get data out of the system.

Each SPOE will get a written report telling them what was reviewed and what areas need to be corrected. DESE will be working with the SPOEs to assist in correcting these areas. DESE will be providing on-going assistance to make sure that these issues are corrected. The west side of the state is schedule for monitoring on November 18, 19, and 20. Once that is done DESE, will look to see if there are some common occurrences across the state.

OSEP Early Childhood Conference

Jodi Woessner and Pam Williams attended the OSEP Early Childhood Conference earlier this week. This was a combined Part C/619 conference. They briefly discussed the sessions they attended. Sessions included Annual Performance Report, Data Submission, Part C to B Transition, OSEP Focused Monitoring in addition to others.

Lunch – Continued Discussion

Approval of July SICC Minutes

There were minor changes made to the July minutes but because there was not a quorum, the minutes could not be voted on but the members present recommended their approval.

SICC Members Updates

- **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Debby Parsons**
No additional information.
- **Department of Mental Health – Donna Evert**
Not present.
- **Department of Health and Senior Services – Rick Horrell**
He indicated that they are working with DMH. They are no longer taking new referrals except in KC. They will no longer be doing First Steps service coordination effective next Friday. They are moving fast and furious to get kids transferred. They will work with early childhood activities. They are reorganizing their bureaus (infants/toddles, children, adolescents, adults). They will play a part in First Steps but will not be providing direct services. The planning grant is due in March. They have structured themselves to be able to still work with LICC and community integration. They are looking at the statewide system.
- **Department of Social Services – Robin Rust**
Medicaid rates are still under discussion. They are still talking about lowering them. The plan is that they will notify providers with a bulletin as soon as they can. They will also post the bulletin on their website. It is highly unlikely that it will be retroactive. If the decision is made to reduce the rates, the bulletin will give the amounts and the effective date. There is no tentative date. The First Steps rates must be the same as Medicaid, so if the Medicaid rate changes, so will First Steps.
- **Division of Family Services – Jim McLaughlin**
No update at this time.
- **Providers/Families**
The proposed reimbursements will be removed from the Division's website and instead there will be the actual reimbursement rates. Providers/families have strong concerns over the loss of the mileage reimbursement and the possibility of Medicaid's reduction in rates. This is going to result in the loss of providers. There are no any easy answers.

LICC Updates – First Steps Facilitators

Harriett Foiles handed out and discussed her updates from the northeast LICC.

Gretchen - SW region - indicated that the LICCS she works with are in Phase II and have continued to meet and are a lot more comfortable with their objectives. Some of the LICCs have secured other funding. At the last SICC meeting, she indicated that she talked about what the LICCs wanted to report to the SICC and what the SICC wants to report to the LICCs (see handout from Sherry Hailey). The LICCs want to move forward and focused strategies but the lack of funding really limits what they can do. They will move forward with what they have and do the best they can. They want to hear from the SICC as to what is going on through implementation. They are very concerned about what is going on statewide regarding child find, provider recruitment, and public awareness. They also want to share what their strengths are and what has been successful.

Harriett wanted to know how we are going to facilitate this exchange of information. The Division is trying to update their First Steps website to include a more helpful Q & A. The Council needs to figure out how to get the questions to them and then how they will get the information back out to everyone. The goal is to have the

entire Division website updated by the time the new legislature (early January) starts. If the website has been updated by the January meeting, the Council would like to have someone from DESE give an overview. Need to put the agenda and the meeting announcement on the website. Leslie Elpers wanted to know if we could bring back the “Fact and Fiction” that Paula used to do?

Jim indicated that communication is a big issue in his area. What is the role of the LICC and what is expected of them? There is also a misunderstanding of the relationship of the LICC and the SICC and they feel that the SICC is the decision maker when in fact in many cases the SICC is unable to give them answers to their questions.

Gretchen wanted to know if there is someone that LICCs can contact with questions? The website now has webreplies listed for each section of the Division and you can click on it and it will send your message to the Department and someone will respond.

Karen - NW region - With the Phase I areas, one of their issues is the lack of providers. They are beginning to address this with the provider recruitment committees. They combined forces and resources and have mailed out 87 provider recruitment letters. They are really lacking OTs and PTs. The St. Joseph area just completed the first QA survey and have shared the expense with several entities. The Clay/Platte/Ray area has requested information on fund raising to help with funding sources. She indicated also that the LICCs in her area are also struggling with what their role is.

SE area - Sara Parker (starts in November).

Kathy Fuger wanted to know if there is some way to honor parents for their participation? Stacey suggested featuring a parent at each SICC meeting. Ann Marie indicated that she would add this to the agenda for the January meeting.

Break

By – Laws (first reading)- Anne Marie & Sharon Hailey

We will postpone since we do not have a quorum. Robin indicated that with the Special Education Advisory Panel that she also serves on that they amended the bylaws so that the quorum is the majority of the members present at a meeting. By the January meeting, need to discuss getting replacements for Anne Marie who leaves with the July meeting and also for Sherry Hailey.

SICC Budget Report – Jodi Woessner

Make sure to keep your email address up to date with Lina Browner. If you have an agenda item to add, get that information to Lina prior to the meeting and she will work with the cochairs. We will be sending all information out via email so please be sure to print and bring copies with you.

Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.